

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 EB-07 SSO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 INRE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

NSCE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INT-05 NSC-05 PA-01

SS-15 PRS-01 FEAE-00 /133 W  
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O R 191650Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1279

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR EB ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREENWALD AND IO DEPUTY ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY MOREY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN ECOSOC EGEN BDIS

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC - REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON REQUEST BY  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR CONSUMERS UNIONS

1. DR. DOROTHY WILLMER, AN NGO REPRESENTATIVE TO ECOSOC (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CONSUMERS UNIONS) HAS APPROACHED MYERSON REQUESTING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT IN CONNECTION WITH THE DRAFT RESOLUTION REPRODUCED IN PARA FIVE OF THIS TELEGRAM. DR. WILLNER IS AWARE THAT SOME QUESTIONS WERE RAISED IN THE DEPT ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL AS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED. SHE SAYS THAT, IN ITS REVISED FORM, HOWEVER, IT EMBODIES IMPROVEMENTS INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREENWALD, WHOM SHE SAW RECENTLY IN ASPEN.

2. DR. WILLNER IS NOW CANVASSING DELEGATIONS FOR SUPPORT AND HAS  
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EXPLICITLY REQUESTED US SUPPORT INCLUDING CO-SPONSORSHIP AND

POSSIBLY TAKING THE LEAD IN SPONSORING. (NGO'S CANNOT THEMSELVES FORMALLY INTRODUCE OR SPONSOR RESOLUTIONS.) SHE SAYS THAT DELEGATIONS OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES (JAMAICA, MALAYSIA, THE NETHERLANDS, PAKISTAN AND SWEDEN) HAVE REACTED FAVORABLY OR ARE "INTERESTED" BUT WE DO NOT YET HAVE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION.

3. IN ADDITION TO INSTRUCTION ON THE TEXT, WE ALSO NEED GUIDANCE ON THE ROLE THE US DELEGATION IS TO PLAY IN THIS MATTER AT THE PRESENT SESSION, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE APPROPRIATELY HELPFUL REGARDING A REQUEST FROM AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INTERNATIONAL NGO. THE MOST LIKELY POINT IN THE AGENDA FOR INTRODUCTION OF SUCH A DRAFT RESOLUTION, HOWEVER, IS THE ITEM COVERING THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON TNCS. (DR. WILLNER INTRODUCED A PAPER ON THE SUBJECT TO THE TNC COMMISSION, LIMA -- E/C.10/NGO/1) AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, WE ARE HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH THE MAJOR US INITIATIVE ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS WHICH IS RELATED TO THE SAME ITEM. EVEN IF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CONSUMER QUESTIONS WERE INTRODUCED UNDER ANOTHER ITEM, THE GENERAL POINT OF CONCENTRATION OF USDEL EFFORTS ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS DURING THE TWO FINAL WEEKS OR SO OF THE 61ST SESSION SHOULD, IN OUR OPINION, BE OVERRIDING. THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT SIMPLY A QUESTION OF MANPOWER OR TIME. IT IS ALSO A QUESTION OF EXPENDITURE OF NEGOTIATING CREDIT AND POLITICAL EFFORT IN TERMS OF US PRIORITIES AT THE PRESENT SESSION. WE OF COURSE REMAIN VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AS A GENERAL MATTER AND, SUBJECT TO AN ACCEPTABLE TEXT, WHICH MEETS GENERAL ECOSOC APPROVAL, THINK WE COULD SUPPORT. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OTHER COUNTRY SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN FACT AND APPEARANCE. (E.G. HEADQUARTERS OF IOCU IS IN NETHERLANDS.) IF DR. WILLNER'S EFFORTS CANNOT GENERATE SUFFICIENT MOMENTUM NOW, PERHAPS THE MATTER COULD BE TAKEN UP SUBSEQUENTLY.

4. REQUEST PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING

5. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION PROVIDED US INFORMALLY BY DR. WILLNER. BEGIN TEXT:

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RECOGNIZING THAT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ARE DESIGNED TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

FURTHER RECOGNIZING THAT THE GAINS FROM INCREASED PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND FROM THEIR INCREASED

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AS ENVISIONED IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY MIGHT BE SUBSTANTIALLY LOST TO THE PEOPLE OF THOSE COUNTRIES UNLESS THE GOODS WHICH COME INTO THE MARKET PLACE ARE SAFE, HEALTHFUL, AND ARE SOLD AT FAIR AND EQUITABLE PRICES TO PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS,

CONVINCED THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF GOVERNMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CITIZENS ARE PROTECTED FROM SUBSTANDARD PRODUCTS, FROM FALSE AND DECEPTIVE SALES AND PROMOTIONAL PRACTICES, FROM SHORT WEIGHTING AND PRODUCT ADULTERATION, FROM INADEQUATE LABELING, FROM UNSANITARY PACKAGING, FROM INJURIOUS OR UNTESTED ADDITIVES AND PRESERVATIVES, FROM UNREASONABLE CREDIT TERMS, AND FROM RESTRAINTS IN COMPETITION WHICH WOULD PREVENT REASONABLE AND INFORMED JUDGEMENTS AND CHOICES FROM AMONG COMPETING PRODUCTS

AWARE THAT THE TASK OF ASSURING SUCH CONSUMER PROTECTION HAS BEEN RENDERED MORE COMPLEX BY THE ADVANCES OF TECHNOLOGY AND BY THE GROWTH OF TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FURTHER RECOGNIZING THAT IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP SUITABLE LEGISLATION FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION AND WAYS TO IMPLEMENT SUCH LEGISLATION

PROPOSES

THAT EXPERTS CONCERNED WITH CONSUMER AFFAIRS IN THEIR GOVERNMENTS BE CONVENED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE ADVANCES IN LIVING STANDARDS AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE NOT BE DIMINISHED IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS BY REASON OF SUCH FACTORS AS:

A. A) THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE PROTECTIVE STANDARDS OF HEALTH AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAFETY IN THE FIELDS OF FOODS, PHARMACEUTICALS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL BUT POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS OR HARMFUL GOODS

B) THE EXPORTATION WITHOUT FULL DISCLOSURE OF PRODUCTS THAT FAIL TO MEET THE STANDARDS OF THE HOME COUNTRY

C) RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES DESIGNED ARTIFICIALLY TO LIMIT CHOICES AMONG PRODUCTS OR TO FIX PRICES

D) FALSE OR MISLEADING LABELING OR ADVERTISING

E) THE IMPACT OF UNREASONABLE CREDIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

F) INADEQUATE PUBLIC INFORMATION CONCERNING THE RELATIVE STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY OF PRODUCTS

B. TO ASSEMBLY INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREGOING  
QUESTIONS FROM THE U.N. AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND  
APPROPRIATE N.G.O.'S.

C. TO CONSIDER AND RECOMMEND TO THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL  
CORPORATIONS PROVISIONS FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION TO BE INCLUDED  
IN THE PROPOSED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

D. TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE METHODS BY WHICH THE U.S.  
SYSTEM CAN BE ADAPTED TO GATHER AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION,  
PROVIDE EXPERTISE AND TRAINING OF STAFF TO ASSIST MEMBER STATES  
IN ESTABLISHING NATIONAL STANDARDS OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND PRODUCT  
QUALITY AND TO DEVELOP MINIMUM INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

END TEXT. DALE

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## Message Attributes

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